

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Dr. BROCK.—You will notice from the map that they are fairly well distributed, starting in Manitoba and extending out west to the mountains. There is also a small area found up north and one area a little south of Lac La Ronge. So that it is fairly well distributed throughout the Northwest provinces. There is another point of interest, and that is that preparations for the use of the lignite in producer gas are being made by the use of a natural gas. That means, of course, that the towns will be supplied with gas burners and a system of piping, and the inhabitants will be accustomed to a gaseous fuel, and when the natural gas fuel is exhausted, they will want producer gas to still enjoy the comforts of gaseous fuel. That will help in establishing the use of producer gas.

By the Chairman:

Q. Would that be Carboniferous coals?—A. The western coals are Cretaceous. The Carboniferous coals are found in the eastern part of North America. In the west the geological time in which the coal deposits were laid down was the Cretaceous, and in the far west both Cretaceous and Tertiary. While we have Tertiary coals on the Pacific slope, we also have Cretaceous coals in Vancouver island and Queen Charlotte islands.

Mr. DOWLING.—We have two grades of coal in the west, beginning with the poorest lignite. This sample I have laid on the table is a poor lignite, but it is an old specimen—1879. The distinguishing mark between the ordinary coal and the lignite is that the lignite fractures when it dries. It contains over ten per cent of moisture, so that when it dries out it leaves cracks. Here is another sample showing the drying out of the coal. When that sample was fresh it was quite bright and black—as black as the ordinary coal—and here is another coal which is a better class of lignite. This is obtained from south of Edmonton. That is also quite light, but is a good coal and does not break up the same as the poorer lignite. Then we have in the mountains a class of coal which runs from the bituminous to the Anthracite in some of the seams.

By the Chairman:

Q. It looks as if there were graphite in that?—A. No, it is just on the border between the bituminous and the Anthracite. It is the Canmore steam coal. It burns with a short flame.

Q. That is what they call Anthracite out there?—A. No, they have Anthracite there also. I have not any samples of Anthracite, but the Anthracite that is mined there is from the same locality and it looks very much like this, but it is quite brittle and breaks up easily. The mining of Anthracite gives a great quantity of fine coal and slack, and they are using that slack in making briquettes. That is an Anthracite briquette. They use a tar basis. (Specimen of briquette from Bankhead shown).

Q. Where do they get the tar?—A. They import it from the eastern states.

By Hon. Mr. Comeau:

Q. It is just made in the one size?—A. Yes.

Q. Can that be sold for the price of coal after it is manufactured?—A. Yes, about \$7 a ton.

Dr. BROCK.—These briquettes are admirable for domestic use. They make a beautiful fire in the grate. They are selling these briquettes pretty far east now. I think they have them as far as Winnipeg; certainly as far as Brandon.

The CHAIRMAN.—What price do they sell them at?

Mr. DOWLING.—About \$7 per ton at the mountains, and, I suppose, about \$10 in Winnipeg.